



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 08442.0002.04000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Joseph C. CAUTHEN

Application No.: 10/085,040

Filed: March 1, 2002

For: INTERVERTEBRAL DISC
ANNULUS STENT

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) Group Art Unit: 3738

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) Examiner: To Be Assigned

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the calculation of fees and examination of the above application,
please amend this application as follows:

IN THE TITLE:

C Please amend the title to read "Spinal Disc Annulus Repair Device."

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1-44 without prejudice.

Please add claims 45-84 as follows:

49 ~~45~~. An implantable device for therapeutically or prophylactically
treating the annulus of a patient's intervertebral disc, the
annulus having an aperture having an aperture dimension
along a selected axis, said device comprising a body having